

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )  
vs. )      CRIMINAL CASE 10-00151-CG  
 )  
 )  
STEVEN PALMER, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

**ORDER**

On this date, the Court conducted a hearing for a determination of Defendant's mental competency to stand trial pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4241. Present during the hearing and in court was the Defendant, Lila Virginia Cleveland, counsel for the Defendant, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Daryl Atchison for the United States.

Prior to the hearing, copies of the report containing the medical opinion of Dr. Lisa Feldman of the Bureau of Prisons Federal Detention Center, Miami, Florida, were made available and reviewed by the Court, counsel for Defendant and the United States. Dr. Feldman concluded that the Defendant Steven Palmer is suffering from a severe mental disease or defect that renders him unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense, and that because of this mental disease, he was not criminally responsible for the alleged offense. Dr. Feldman further recommended that the Defendant be committed for a period of mental health treatment under the provisions of Title 18, U.S. Code, § 4241(d). No additional testimony, or other expert opinions, were offered by either party.

Therefore, based on the evidence presented, the Court finds by a preponderance of the

evidence that the Defendant is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense. Accordingly, Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §4241(d), the court hereby commits the defendant to the custody of the United States Attorney General for a reasonable time, not to exceed four months<sup>1</sup>, as is necessary to determine whether there is a substantial probability that in the foreseeable future he will attain the capacity to permit the trial to proceed. During this period, he is to receive mental health treatment, which could include the administration of antipsychotic medications.

**DONE and ORDERED** this 10th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Callie V. S. Granade

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup> This time period shall not begin to run until the date the defendant arrives at the facility designated for treatment by the Attorney General.